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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/875,054	06/07/2001	Roberto R. Chinnici	06502.0311	6050

22852 7590 03/03/2004

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EXAMINER

RONES, CHARLES

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2175

DATE MAILED: 03/03/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/875,054

Applicant(s)

CHINNICI ET AL.

Examiner

Charles L. Rones

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment

The amendment timely filed on July 22, 2003 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 12 and 13, the phrase "may be" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitation(s) following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mullins U.S. 2002/0091702 ('Mullins').

Mullins discloses:

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As to claim 1,

receiving database record information at a client computer system from a database server; See [0045]; [0046];

modifying the database record information at said client computer system using a first computer programming language; See [0045]; [0046];

transmitting the database record information with modifications to an application server; See [0045]; [0046];

converting the modifications, at the application server, to calls of a second computer programming language of a computer application; See [0042]; [0045]; [0046]; and

executing the second computer language programming calls to invoke functions of the computer application to cause database record changes at said database server that correspond to the modifications to the database record information; See [0042]; [0045]; [0046]; [0213].

As to claim 3,

wherein said step of transmitting said modifications to said application server comprises transmitting to said application server a list of changes made to said database record information; See [0116].

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As to claim 4,

wherein said application server determines the changes that have been made to said database record information from said list and converts said changes to functions of said application that cause modifications to a database record of said database server that corresponds to the modifications made at said client computer system; See [0042]; [0045]; [0046]; [0116].

As to claim 5,

wherein said database record information represents at least a subset of a table of said database server and said step of modifying comprises inserting an element in said subset of said table at said client computer system; See [0134-0136].

As to claim 6,

said at said application server, an EJB object that corresponds to the table subset modified at said client computer system; See [0133-0136]; and

creating a map to enable inserts into a table of said database server that corresponds to said step of inserting at said client computer system; See [0133-0136].

As to claim 7,

identifying all create methods of said EJB object and of sub-objects of said EJB object; See [0133-0136];

determining which columns of tables of said database correspond to arguments of identified create methods; See [0133-0136]; and

wherein said step of creating said map comprises mapping said columns to arguments of the create methods that correspond to said columns; See [0133-0136].

As to claim 8,

at said application server, the location of the insert into said subset of said table and mapping the element inserted into said subset to an argument of the identified create method that is operative to cause said element to be inserted into said table of said database server; See [0133-0136].

As to claim 9,

executing the identified create method, at the application server, to cause the element to be inserted in said table of said database; See [0133-0136].

As to claim 10,

receiving, at an application server, a set of commands from a client computer system to modify a database record of a database server; See [0133-0136];

identifying certain application instructions of an application, at said application server, that are operative to insert elements into a database record; See [0133-0136];

enabling said certain application instructions to be correlated to certain commands received from said client computer system that indicate the insertion of an element into said database record; ; See [0133-0136];

executing selected certain application instructions that correspond to said certain commands, wherein execution of said selected certain application instructions cause the invocation of a database call to insert elements into said database record corresponding to said certain commands; See [0133-0136].

As to claim 11,

wherein said step of identifying occurs when said application is being configured for execution at said application server; See [0042]; [0045]; [0046].

As to claim 12,

wherein said step of enabling comprises identifying columns of database records that may be operated on by the identified certain application instructions; See [0042]; [0045]; [0046].

As to claim 13,

mapping the columns that may be operated on to the identified certain application instructions; See [0042]; [0045]; [0046].

As to claim 14,

updating elements the columns associated with the identified application instructions based on the certain commands; See [0042]; [0045]; [0046].

As to claim 15,

wherein said commands are from a different type database access protocol language than said certain application instructions; See [0042]; [0045]; [0046].

As to claim 16,

wherein said step of identifying said certain application instructions comprises identifying create methods; See [0042]; [0045]; [0046].

As to claim 17,

wherein said database record is a table of said database; See [0133-0136].

As to claim 18,

wherein said create method is part of an EJB that accesses the table; See [0133-0136].

As to claim 19,

wherein said EJB is identified prior to identifying said create methods; See [0133-0136].

As to claim 20,

identifying first level software components of an application on an application server, that contain sub-level software components, said sub-level software components for accessing data input fields of a database; See [0133-0136];

exposing the first level software components in association with operations of sub-level software components for accessing the information contained in the data input fields; See [0133-0136];

mapping modification commands received, at the application server, from a client computer system to the identified first level and sub-level software components that correspond to the modification commands; See [0133-0136]; and

executing the identified software components to update said database in accordance with the modifications received from the client computer system; See [0133-0136].

As to claim 21,

wherein said first level software components is an EJB object and said sub-level software components are sub-objects of said EJB object; See [0133-0136].

As to claim 22,

wherein said step of executing comprises executing software components that produce SQL calls to said database to modify said database; See [0042].

As to claim 23,

wherein said modification commands are from an application designed for direct access to a relational database; See [0042].

As to claim 24,

wherein said identified first level and sub-level software components are EJB components; See [0133-0136].

As to claim 25,

receiving, at the application server, the result of a query request as modified by a client computer system; See [0042]; [0045]; [0046];

determining, at the application server, the modifications made to the result of the query request; See [0042]; [0045]; [0046];

converting, at said application server, the modifications from a first programming language into a general computer programming language command for accessing a database; See [0042]; [0045]; [0046]; and

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executing said general programming language command to produce a database protocol command to modify a database record to correspond to the query request as modified by the client computer system; See [0042]; [0045]; [0046].

As to claim 26,

wherein said general computer language programming call is an Enterprise Java Bean (EJB) call; See [0133-0136].

As to claim 27,

wherein the database protocol command is a Structured Query Logic (SQL) call; See [0042].

As to claim 28,

wherein the application server receives the database call from a client computer system; See [0133-0136].

As to claim 29,

generating a database call to a database in response to executing the general computer language programming call; See [0042]; [0045]; [0046].

As to claim 30,

generating database calls to a database in response to executing the general computer language programming calls; See [0042]; [0045]; [0046];

analyzing the components to determine the correspondence between database elements and the elements of the components that access the database elements; and
creating a map that identifies the correspondence; See [0133-0136].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mullins U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0091702 ('Mullins') in view of Sidles, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0062342 ('Sidles').

As to claim 2,

Mullins discloses the claimed invention except for determining when a user has completed making changes to said database record information at said client computer system. Sidles teaches that it is known to provide for determining when a user has

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completed making changes to said database record information at said client computer system. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide determining when a user has completed making changes to said database record information at said client computer system as taught by Sidles, since Sidles states at paragraph [0035] and paragraph [0040] that such a modification would allow users to quickly and efficiently complete forms by determining when a user has finished but left items and the computer automatically fills the fields.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles L. Rones whose telephone number is 703-306-3030. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici can be reached on 703-305-3830. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Charles L. Rones
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2175

March 1, 2004